

Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Meeting Minutes ~ June 9, 2011

Present: David Lange, Janet Mirsky, Brenda Cooley, Keith Chernikoff, Rosemary Pezzuto, Barbara Simon, Sharee Koenig, David Whaples, Rev. Dan Hamlin, Natasha Jenkins and Shane Wisdom

Excused: Elizabeth Hammett, Ken Blue and Beatrice Rodgers

City Council: Ms. Leta Mach, Liaison

Board of Ed.: Ms. Peggy Higgins, Liaison (not present)

Staff: Joe McNeal, Liaison

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order by David Lange at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Lange requested a motion be added to the Agenda. Ms. Pezzuto moved to approve the Agenda with the requested addition, Mr. Wisdom seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Pezzuto moved to approve the 5-26-11 Meeting Minutes, Ms. Mirsky seconded the motion. The 5-26-11 Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Council Member Mach provided a City Council update. Ms. Mach noted that the City Council is looking forward to receiving the Interim Report from the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force and reminded the members of the Task Force that the City Council only meets once in July and August. It is planned to present the City Council with the Interim Report at their June 20, 2011 meeting. A Work Session with City Council is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 8 p.m. in the Community Center Multi Purpose Room.

Mr. Lange noted that the City had not sent any type of correspondence to the Prince George's County Board of Education stating the City of Greenbelt's position on the future of the old Greenbelt Middle School facility. Ms. Mach agreed that this had not occurred.

Mr. Lange suggested the Task Force consider the following motion;

The Task Force recommends that the City of Greenbelt send a letter to the Superintendent of Schools of Prince George's County expressing interest in the Greenbelt Middle School building. This should be done rather soon to ensure the City's interest is on the record, while it undergoes its deliberate decision process.

Rev. Hamlin moved that the Task Force make the recommendation noted above. Ms. Cooley seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Lange advised the Task Force that he has been in communication with Paul Taylor from the PGCPs. Mr. Taylor has agreed to provide cost estimates for demolition and renovation of the two possible building configurations recommended by the Task Force. The estimates are expected by July 8, 2011 in advance of the City Council Work Session. In addition, Mr. Taylor has been requested to provide suggestions and guidance on the sequence of or renovations.

Mr. Lange advised the Task Force that original cost estimates using square footage of the existing Community Center were based on gross square footage and not net "useable" square footage. As a result the cost factor for calculation operational estimates has increased from \$13.50 to \$19.50 per square foot. These changes are reflected in the Interim Report.

Mr. Chernikoff asked if Mr. Whaples has prepared elevation layouts of the GMS. Mr. Whaples advised he has but is in the process of making formatting modifications to improve the presentation.

There was discussion regarding the wooded area adjacent to the old Middle School near the corner of Edmonston Road and Breezewood Drive. The concern was focused on preserving and protecting the woods in the future. Some on the Task Force felt the City should consider including this tract of land to ensure the woods were protected. Mr. Whaples advised that the Board of Education is the current owner and are required to protect the woods by the County and the MNCPPC. All seemed satisfied with the approach of leaving ownership of the land with the Board of Ed based on this belief. Mr. McNeal advised he would check with the City Planning Department regarding this question.

Rev. Dan Hamlin made a motion to adopt the Interim Report presented to the Task Force. Rosemary Pezzuto seconded the motion.

Mr. Whaples advised that the Task Force needs to be clear that the time line that has been sketched out by the Board of Education of beginning renovations and demolition in September 2012 is not realistic. The design component for the work will easily take one year and the site approval can take just as long. All of this must occur prior to the actual demolition and renovation work

Rev. Hamlin congratulated Mr. Lange and all the members of the Task Force on the Interim Report and stated he was very impressed.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve the Interim Report. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Mr. Lange posed the following questions to the Task Force;

1. What should be in the final report?

2. What should the Task Force (or follow up groups) do to help the City Council in the future?
3. Would you be willing to serve on a follow up group?

Mr. Lange summarized the responses into the following categories;

- Prioritization of community services
- Economic feasibility / business plan
- Grants and other funding opportunities
- Report should be focused, sharp and to the point

All in attendance indicated they want to serve on future groups if needed depending on their personal schedules and time limitations.

Ms. Cooley advocated building upon the intergenerational model implemented at the Community Center.

Ms. Pezzuto advised she recently returned from a national conference on volunteerism and will share this info at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes approved unanimously on 7-14-2011